



LABOUR

NLC tackles Amosun over threat to disgrace members

Stories by Mustapha Suleiman

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has chided the Governor of Ogun State, Ibikunle Amosun, over a statement credited to him in which he threatened to disgrace its leadership for insisting to embark on a protest on Tuesday in the state.

NLC President Ayuba Wabba in a statement, Friday, said the governor's threats will not deter it from defending the interests of workers in Ogun State whose rights, he claimed, the governor has been trampling upon.

Wabba accused the governor of non-

remittance of statutory deductions from workers' salaries for pensions, cooperative, 'Ileya, Christmas etc. over a period of 105 months.

He also accused the governor of non-utilization of the last tranche of the Paris Club refund for the payment of gratuity for both state and local government workers since 2013, despite signing a collective agreement with organized labour in the state.

Wabba further accused the governor of refusing to pay workers at the Tai Solarin College of Education their salary arrears that accumulated for the past 10 years and now grossed to a financial liability

of about N9 billion, alleging that the governor sacked the chairman of the NLC from his employment for standing firm in the defense of the rights of workers in the state.

"The issues we have highlighted are too grievous to be swept under the carpet, therefore, the decision of the 12th National Delegates Conference of the NLC to confront and engage Governor Amosun will be carried out to the letter on Tuesday.

"Our confidence stems from the protection and guarantees provided by Section 40 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution which gives workers and indeed all Nigerians the freedom to

peaceful assembly and protest.

"All that the law requires us to do is to inform the police and relevant security agencies. This we have done. We are ready to peacefully protest the grievous mistreatment by our workers in the hands of Governor Ibikunle Amosun on 5th March 2019," Wabba said.

He said it was unfortunate that a sitting governor and a former senator like Amosun could descend into violent utterances in order to cow workers, adding that he would be held personally responsible for any harm that comes to any worker during its protest scheduled for Tuesday.



■ President of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Ayuba Wabba (3rd right) with the new members of the union after his election at ITUC 4th World Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark.

ILO harps on decent jobs

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has urged government and other employers of labour across the world to strive to provide not just jobs but decent jobs in order to place human society on the path of progress.

Damian Grimshaw, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Director of Research made this call in a report.

He noted that over 700 million people are living in extreme or moderate poverty despite having employment, attributing it to high level of poor working conditions millions of workers across the world faced.

According to Grimshaw, a report of the International Labour Organization's World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO): Trends 2019 report, stated that despite the minimal 4.5 per cent of the working age population are unemployed in Africa while 60 per cent are employed, the number of people living under poverty line in the continent is enormous.

"Poor quality employment is the main issue for global labour markets, with millions of people forced to accept inadequate working conditions, especially in Africa.

"WESO: Trend 2019 shows that a majority of the 3.3 billion people employed globally in 2018 had inadequate economic security, material well-being and equality of opportunity.

"Progress in reducing unemployment globally is not being matched by improvements in the quality of work," ILO said, quoting WESO Trends 2019

report.

Following this new revelation, ILO decried the persistent number of major deficits in decent work, and warned that, "with the current rate of progress attaining the goal of decent work for all, as set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 8, seems unrealistic for many countries."

Commenting on the alarming declining rate of decent jobs, Deborah Greenfield, ILO Deputy Director-General for Policy Issue said, "SDG 8 is not just about full employment but the quality of that employment. Equality and decent work are two of the pillars underpinning sustainable development.

Grimshaw said, "Being in employment does not always guarantee a decent living. For instance, a full 700 million people are living in extreme or moderate poverty despite having employment."

Among the issues highlighted is the lack of progress in closing the gender gap in labour force participation.

The ILO also said, "Only 48 per cent of women are in the labour force, compared to 75 per cent of men. Women also make up far more of the potential, underutilized, labour force. Another issue is the persistence of informal employment, with a staggering 2 billion workers - 61 per cent of the world's workforce - categorized as such. Also of concern is that more than one in five young people (under 25) are not in employment, education or training, compromising their future employment prospects," the report stated.

Abia NDE coordinator tasks youth on skills acquisition

The Coordinator, National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in Abia, Mrs Buchi Ojei, has urged youths to embrace skills acquisition as a viable option to white collar jobs.

Ojei gave the advice on Friday at the closing ceremony of the NDE Cosmetology training programme held at Asaga, Ohafia, Abia.

She said certificate

qualification had failed the country, adding that the best was to embrace skills that could make one self-reliant and employer of labour.

"People who are working are going into skills acquisition now. The world is going into skills acquisition, so the earlier we embrace it the better.

"I am happy to say that Abia indigenes have

really embraced skills acquisition," she said.

The NDE coordinator said forms had been given to the participants to facilitate loans for them.

"We have a collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria. These forms will enable them to access loans and with these loans, they will be able to establish," she said.



Mutual Benefits Assurance Plc.

DELAY IN FILING AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2018

Mutual Benefits Assurance Plc. (Mutual Benefits Assurance or the Company) wishes to inform its valued shareholders, investing public and key stakeholders that the Company may be unable to meet the deadline of 31st March, 2019, to file the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2018 in line with the Listing Rules of The Exchange.

As an entity subject to a Primary Government Regulator (National Insurance Commission) and being an Insurance organization, we are affected by the adoption and implementation of IFRS 9 which deals with Financial Instruments and IFRS 4 (as amended) on Insurance Contracts.

Our Primary Regulator (NAICOM) only recently released the guidance on the implementation of the two accounting standards and held the consultative meeting with the industry on 12th February 2019.

These events have affected the finalization of our Audited Financial Statements and we envisage that the Primary Regulator would not have approved the Financial Statements by 30th March, 2019.

The results will be published as soon as we obtain the approval of the Primary Regulator.

Thank you.

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